

# COOKIN' WITH THE HOOK

THE OFFICIAL JOHN LEE HOOKER  
INTERNATIONAL FAN CLUB NEWSLETTER  
ISSUE 1

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**WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF COOKIN' WITH THE HOOK. ANY ARTICLES, COMMENTS, REVIEWS, VIEWS, PHOTOGRAPHS OR ADVERTISEMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN ISSUE TWO, PLEASE SEND TO ME AT HEALER PRODUCTIONS, P.O. BOX 4962, BURLINGAME, CALIFORNIA 94011 USA**

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Cover photo courtesy of Michael Collopy

## JOHN LEE COMMENTS ON HIS NEW ALBUM

*John Lee Hooker offers a behind the scenes look at his new album. During a lengthy interview with John Lee for "Cookin' With the Hook", Hooker offers us an inside look.*

Well, I think it's very good. Number one, I got some very good people on there. They're friends of mine. I got Charles Brown and his combo. We recorded a song called *Annie Mae* and *Kiddie-O*. I enjoyed very much playing with him. And I have "the Man", Carlos Santana, singing a song called *Chill Out*. It's a very good tune. I did a lot of songs myself with my band. One of the songs is called *Tupelo*, for Tupelo, Mississippi. It's a remake from my song years ago. Tupelo is a town in Mississippi that got destroyed by water, "the mighty flood". That's where Elvis Presley grew up.

Van Morrison is also on the new album. We made another recording of *Dimples*. Elvin Bishop plays on that tune with us. The title of the album will be called *Chill Out*. That's a slang word, you know, "slow your motor down".

So, you all look out for that album. Probably, this summer. It's gonna be just as big as *Boom Boom*, or maybe bigger, I hope.



Van Morrison and John Lee Hooker  
Jamming at Jacks Bar in San Francisco



# YOUR QUESTIONS FOR "THE HOOK"

By: Lynn Goldfinger

*These questions were submitted by you, the fans. Our interview took place at John Lee Hooker's home in Redwood City, California. The questions chosen this month were submitted by Rosdi Bin-Rabini (Singapore), Michael Swanger (Des Moines, Iowa), Candice Smith (San Francisco, California), Brian Lacy (Omaha, Nebraska), Frank Black (Clinton, Illinois) and Doug Bridgeforth (Wheatridge, Colorado).*

**LG: When will your next album be released?**

JLH: It will be released the latter part of April or maybe the first of May. It's already in the can and ready to go. We gotta lot of hard work to do.

**LG: So far how many albums have you released?**

JLH: Well, I would say I don't know roughly. But, about pretty close to two hundred.

**LG: Two hundred? That's a lot of albums!**

JLH: That's a lot. More than anybody.

**LG: What do you think about todays young Blues singers? Are they as good as veteran Blues singers as you are?**

JLH: The music is really good, don't get me wrong, but you don't have that deep feelin' when they play guitar. They don't play deep. They really play fast, the beautiful tone, nice technique. But, real funky and deep blues, they don't. It's not there yet. As they grow older, it may, if they get seasoned. They probably will. But today, no.

**LG: Who were your influences when you began playing guitar?**

JLH: Will Moore, my stepfather, who is no longer here. My style I'm playing now is his style. That's where I got my technique, style--everything from him.

**LG: So many people have had the privilege of playing with you, but who have you enjoyed playing with the most?**

JLH: Well, I would say, it may be unknown to you, this person, Eddie Kirkland. I don't know if you heard of him or not. He started off with me, just two guitars. That was then. But now, I enjoy playing with several good, good, Blues singers. But then, it was Eddie Kirkland.

**LG: What kind of future do you foresee for the Blues?**

JLH: Big ones! Bigger than they ever been. It's gonna get bigger and we gonna keep the doors open for the Blues. It should be played more on radio. It would be much, much, much bigger. It could of been much bigger. But, it's gonna be big anyway. They (the Blues) will never die, so, I'm gonna try to help keep the door open for other musicians to walk in behind me--the door that I walked already through, and hoping that they can follow me. Thank you.

**LG: How many shows do you perform a year?**

JLH: In the past, quite a few. Not as many as BB (B.B.King) do. But, in the past maybe, fifty, sixty, maybe more. I used to do that.

**LG: Do you like Jazz guitar?**

JLH: Yes, I do. I like soulful jazz, not sophisticated jazz. Jazz, oh like, Miles Davis. You know, 'cause I was with him on *The Hot Spot*. But, sophisticated jazz, I don't care for too much. But soulful jazz, yes, like George Benson and people like that, sure.

**LG: Who are your favorite Jazz guitarists?**

JLH: George Benson.

**LG: Which U.S. city has the best (most knowledgeable) Blues fans?**

JLH: That's a good question. I would say Chicago, known for the Blues.

**LG: Any old San Francisco club that you may have good memories of?**

JLH: That's a good question. *The Keystone*. The memories are at the *Keystone*, I did a lot of shows there.

**LG: Favorite female Blues musician?**

JLH: Vala Cupp. (Vala Cupp is the lead singer in John Lee Hooker's band)

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**LG:** *Who are some of the artists you listen to today?*

JLH: Some of them have passed on like Stevie Ray Vaughan, Albert King. We all gotta go. Today, now, I listen to so many good singers. There are a lot of them right now like B.B. King.

**LG:** *What was it like to play with the late, great Stevie Ray Vaughan?*

JLH: Great, great, great!! It broke my heart when he passed on, 'cause he advanced so far. He was such a nice person, such a loyal person. He was one of my great heroes. He still is. He gone, I don't see him, but I feel him. Very great young musician. There no tellin' how he would of went if he'd be here.

**LG:** *Having heard you play "I Bad Like Jesse James" many years ago, why did it take so long to put it on an album?*

JLH: Well, everything has a time and a date. It was a time for it when it happened, so that's all I can tell you.

**LG:** *Mr. Hooker, I heard that early in your career you went by the name, "Texas Slim". Did you know that a young cat in Dallas, Texas is now playing under that alias?*

JLH: No, but, God bless him. I hope I can meet him and tell him "hi", and I wish him all the luck in the world.

**LG:** *Mr. Hooker, what makes you the man so FFFFunky?*

JLH: Nobody as funky as "the Hook", I know that. But, I go deep. When I dig, I dig deep. It's just there, it just happens. I don't make it happen. It's just there.

**LG:** *You were born funky!*

JLH: That's right. I was born, what you call "funk" with music. Ha Ha Ha Ha

**LG:** *What does your diet consist of to have you with us so long?*

JLH: God above keeps me alive and lovin' people keeps me goin'.

**LG:** *What do you do besides play and record music?*

JLH: Well, lovin' women. The young women, keeps me goin'. And baseball, TV and music.

**LG:** *Will you tour with Bonnie Raitt again?*

JLH: Well, I hope so. We talks, but we never talk about touring. She ain't doing too much touring. She going to start. I'm not touring too much at all. Just mostly kickin' back, half way retired.

**LG:** *I don't think your fans want you to retire.*

JLH: I'll never completely retire, but I'm just enjoying life. If I do see Bonnie Raitt, we may just do that.

**LG:** *What ever became of Sonny Terry and Brownie Macgee? I understand you guys toured together.*

JLH: Well, Sonny passed on, unfortunately. He's a good friend of mine from way back years and years. He was a really good friend. He left us like we all gotta do some day. So, it's a shame, but we have to pay our bill to the "man upstairs". Brownie is still around. He lives in Oakland (California). He ain't doin' no touring. I don't ever see him, but I hear from him once in a while.

**LG:** *What was your first guitar and gig?*

JLH: My first guitar was given to me by my stepfather, Will Moore, in Mississippi. I was fourteen years old! It was a *Stella* guitar. My first gig was in Detroit. I was about eighteen or nineteen years old, maybe twenty. In Detroit there, on Russell Street at the *Apex Bar*. And, I had a rockin' good time!! A rockin' good time. I had a long cord (guitar cord). I'd go outside the bar playing. People would follow me outside.

**LG:** *John Lee, what do you want to say to your fans?*

JLH: Ain't but one thing I can say. It's true and I mean it, I love 'em! I belong to them. That's why I sing my heart out to please them. I don't know you, but I love you.







Lynn Goldfinger, (President of JLH fan club) and John Lee Hooker  
Signing autographs at *Tower Records*

## CONTEST WINNERS

We held a special drawing March 1st for any new member of the John Lee Hooker International Fan Club. We asked our members to submit their top five questions for John Lee.

**FIRST PLACE WINNER** went to Brian Lacy of Omaha, Nebraska. Brian received a phone call from "The Man" himself. They chatted about everything from the weather to John Lee's musical tastes. John Lee was thrilled, as always, to speak to one of his fans, and even invited Brian to meet him if he's ever in California. Wow! We hope Brian has some stories for us. Congratulations!

**SECOND PLACE WINNER** went to Candice Smith of San Francisco, California. Candice received an autographed photo of John Lee Hooker.

**THIRD PLACE WINNER** went to Hywel Emrys of Wales, England. Hywel received a pair of authentic John Lee "star socks" (yes, John Lee wore them!) and a John Lee Hooker keychain.

Thank you all for your participation. We are pleased to announce that John Lee has actually offered to record a personal song for our next contest winner!!! Drawing will be held in July. To participate, all you need to do is simply refer us one new member. When he/she joins, please be sure to have them put your name down as a referral. We are all looking forward to this exciting contest. Our membership is growing rapidly. Surely, John Lee's personal song will help increase our family!!



John Lee with his buddy, Carlos Santana



# THE INSIDE WORD

Did you know that?

- New Hookmobile--The Boogie Man just purchased a custom-made 1994 Lincoln stretch limousine. It's black and has all the fixins. This adds to his collection of a Mercedes, Cadillac, Toyota Supra and Lincoln Town Car!
- In December John Lee sat in on Van Morrison's "Blues and Soul Review" concert at the *Masonic Auditorium* in San Francisco. He joined Van on the stage to sing their recently released version of *Gloria*. It was magical! Backstage John Lee hung out and reminisced about the old days with his buddies, Junior Wells and Jimmy Witherspoon.
- John Lee's daughter, Zakiya Hooker, is following in her father's footsteps. Her first CD, *Another Generation Of The Blues* was nominated for a BMMIE (Bay Area Music Awards). Watch for her second CD which will be titled, *Protect Me From The Blues*. Her CD is available at Tower Record stores. She's great and has the "boogie fever". Check it out!



John Lee Hooker, Ronnie Wood, Rich Kirch (Hooker's guitarist) Dining at *Chasens* restaurant in Los Angeles at the premiere of the movie, *Sommersby*



Jodie Foster and John Lee Hooker Dining at *Chasens* restaurant in Los Angeles

- John Lee has been spending a lot of time in his new vacation home in Long Beach, California, where he sits by the pool and entertains his wide array of friends.
- John Lee's second hobby next to music is his love for baseball. His favorite team is the *Los Angeles Dodgers*. Don't try to speak to him during baseball season, you'll find him in front of the television set watching the game of the week!
- In February John Lee won a BMMIE award for his wonderful CD *Boom Boom*. The BMMIES are a prestigious award given in San Francisco. He was also nominated for a GRAMMY for "Best Traditional Blues Album". Just wait until next year!!
- Richard Gere, a big fan of John Lee, invited him to attend the premiere of Gere's movie, *Sommersby*. John Lee dined afterwards at the famous *Chasens* in Los Angeles with celebrities including, Ronnie Wood, Jodie Foster, Richard Gere and Cindy Crawford, to name a few.



# CLASSIFIEDS...CLASSIFIEDS...

This section is to buy, sell or trade your John Lee Hooker memorabilia. Anything from records to pictures. Advertising is free to all members. PLEASE submit all classifieds to Healer Productions. If anyone out there has questions or comments they need answering, well why not write in and I'll try and find out. All questions can be sent to Healer Productions, P.O. Box 4962, Burlingame, CA 94011, USA or fax to 1(415) 343-3269

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John Lee Hooker  
*The Healer*

## Cook with the Hook at The Stinking Rose



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(Be sure to mention the John Lee Hooker Fan Club when calling or writing)

## WANTED:

- John Lee Hooker original recordings wanted! Anything using alias's such as John Lee Booker, Little Pork Chops, Texas Slim, etc. write to: I. Schlesinger, 1085 Jamaica, Foster City, CA 94404
- Any posters with Hooker (especially Fillmores). Also, old Hooker videos wanted. write to: R Harlick, P.O. Box 117652, Burlingame, CA 94010









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**JOHN LEE HOOKER**